

CIVIL AIR PATROL GROUP COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS REPORTED AT LOCAL FIELD

While the Third Group of the Civil Air Patrol, a federal cooperation and auxiliary of the Army Air Forces, claims to have a five-year permit from the Corps of Engineers for use and occupancy of Lomita flight strip and planned to start commercial operations on the field Dec. 1, the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, has informed local interests that the flight strip "is now surplus to the needs of the War Department and is under the jurisdiction of the War Assets Administration."

Meanwhile, Torrance has its perpetual permit for the 89.9 acres comprising the flight strip property and is bringing to a head its negotiations for an outright deed to the entire 480 acres of the airport, including the strip itself.

In connection with this, a survey board from the W.A.A. and engineers was reported to have been at the field Friday to check on the facilities preparatory to drawing final papers which will make the Army-developed military field become Torrance Municipal Airport.

Major C. H. Holmes, commander of the Third Group of the C.A.P. who has operated at the airport since the end of the war, said last week that the five-year lease of the Third Group was to become operative on Dec. 1, 1946.

His lease did not include the flight strip area which had been granted to the City of Torrance.

He said that to arrive at an operation agreement, both the Third Group and the City of Torrance probably would have to sit down and talk the thing over.

However, local aviation interests stated that the permit which Holmes says that he has is non-operative since the Engineers disclaim any interest in the field.

Harry E. Brady, chief, management and disposal division, Real Estate, Office of Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C., told J. G. Caldwell, director of the Torrance Area Veterans Center, that "that portion of Lomita air strip which was formerly under the jurisdiction of the War Department is now surplus to the needs of the War Department and is under the jurisdiction of the War Assets Administration." He suggested that Caldwell contact Carl DeWolfe, deputy regional director for real property disposal, W.A.A., Los Angeles, for information regarding the strip, Caldwell had asked for use as veterans housing of the barracks buildings on the flight strip.

The Torrance Aviation Commission weeks ago adopted a policy of cooperation with the C.A.P. and its aviation education program, and has considered from the very start of negotiations for the flight strip that C.A.P. activities in one form or another would be continued when the port is taken over by the City of Torrance.

There are approximately 50 aircraft on the airport now, belonging to C.A.P. members and to the Third Group officers.

Death's Corner Scene Of Near Fatal Accident

Narrowly escaping death Tuesday evening when his eight-ton gasoline truck turned over and instantly burst into flames, 22-year-old Richard Hare, 15717 S. Atkinson st., Gardena, crawled through a blazing inferno to safety with few scratches to mark his experience.

Torrance police officers Carmel Cook and Johnny Maestri reported the truck, filled with more than five hundred gallons of gasoline and fuel oil, made a boulevard stop at 182nd st. and Crenshaw Blvd., then proceeded into the intersection when a car traveling in the opposite direction failed to make the stop, causing the tanker to swerve out of control into an embankment.

Firemen arrived upon the scene and were successful in saving the gasoline tanks from the fire. Flames leaping high into the air brought a total loss of the truck cab and front tires, firemen said.

Weather Record

Official U. S. Weather Bureau

DATE	Maximum	Minimum
Nov. 26	67	47
27	65	47
28	61	47
29	61	55
30	65	49
1	61	49
2	61	45
3	72	45

PRECIPITATION (Storm Total Year)

Nov. 20	0.48
Nov. 23	0.93
Total	6.08

Chest Drive, Delayed By Rain, Proceeds

With clearing skies and the holiday out of the way, Torrance volunteers in the Community Chest appeal are expected to get under way with redoubled efforts to make their calls in the residential and business areas. It is reported by Russell Lund, campaign chairman, that nearly one-third of the \$18,864 goal now is in hand, according to latest available official figures, with \$6,032, in hand by 734 donations brought in by Rev. Mr. Paul Moore Wheeler, head of the Special Gifts Committee, Frederick Cook and the business men serving with him in the Torrance District.

Citizens can help speed the completion of the appeal here by sending or taking their annual donations for the 152 Red Feather agencies which give veterans, health, welfare and youth services here to the District Welfare Center, which is made possible by Chest donations, at 1339 Post ave.

Torrance Naming Airport For Louis Zamperini

Torrance Municipal Airport officially will be known as "Zamperini Field," and it will be so dedicated at a ceremony to be held on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day, as a result of action of the City Council Tuesday night.

The Council concurred in a resolution of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce urging that portions of the air strip now under control of the City of Torrance on soon to be under control of the city, be named for the famous Olympic miler of Torrance, Capt. Louis Zamperini, who endured 47 days on an open raft in the South Pacific, months of cruel treatment at the hands of the Japanese and came back "from the dead" to take his place in the world.

Action of the Council was unanimous, and it is reported that the Personnel Narrative Division of Army Air Forces Information and Public Relations is arranging a nation-wide radio program on Pearl Harbor day which will feature the athletic exploits of Zamperini, his heroism in World War II, and his recovery from the Japanese after he long had been declared officially dead.

Torrance already has a perpetual permit to the flight strip's 89.9 acres and this section, in addition to such other portions as may be granted the City of Torrance between now and Dec. 7, will be dedicated and named after Captain Louis Zamperini, it was decided.

Accident Lands Man In Hospital And Jail Here

Arthur Lee Yarger, 2500 Olive ave., Long Beach, made "touch and go" landings all over Torrance Sunday following an accident in which his car on Abalone ave. near Plaza del Amo, according to Torrance police reports.

First, officers explained, Yarger failed to negotiate a curve at the above intersection and landed upside down in his "hopped-up jalopy," which turned landed the 33-year-old Yarger in the Torrance Memorial hospital, where he was treated for bruises and abrasions.



ELECTED CHAMBER DIRECTORS . . . Picked by the membership of Torrance Chamber of Commerce to serve on the directorate for the ensuing two-year term are Charles T. Rippey, attorney (left), and R. I. Plomert Jr., tax counselor (center), both reelected, and Dean L. Sears, Bank of America manager (right). Rippey and Plomert are incumbents. Sears newly elected.

Residents Are Warned Of Phony Solicitors Here

Torrance dry cleaning establishments and the police last week issued a warning to all residents of the area to beware of phony cleaning solicitors who have been flooding the local populace of clothing. "Cleaners here" report they have received calls from several persons asking for delivery of garments which they, the cleaners, have never received. Victims claim the solicitors in many cases represent themselves as employees of Torrance cleaning firms.

North Torrance Residents Launching Drive For Six Needed Improvements

Residents of North Torrance are giving thanks this day for a victorious water election which demonstrated a population unified in the effort to go out and get things good for the long-neglected area north of 190th st.

But its Water Committee, with the Nov. 19 five to one victory at the polls where \$174,000 in bonds was voted, now is setting out to accomplish other things:

1. Unified mail service from the Torrance post office and a contract branch post office for the area. As it is now, and no one knows better than the city clerk and county clerk, it is a constant mad scramble to determine to which post office mail should be sent for North Torrance residents. In one area it is Redondo Beach, in another, it is Gardena. The delay is inconvenient and costly, and often financial papers involving thousands of dollars go astray for as long as a week, just being mailed from Torrance to another part of Torrance—but through the Redondo Beach or Gardena post offices. If you mail a letter to an address in North Torrance and address it "Torrance, Calif.," it will be returned for a "better address" and "to such street in Torrance," and it will be up to you to find out where it should go to get to the address on that street which actually is in Torrance—Redondo Beach or Gardena. It is four and one-half miles to the post office from extreme North Torrance, and the residents there want and are entitled to a contract or branch Torrance post office, they say.

2. Sewers. With state funds available for matching with district funds and County Sanitation.

Pacific Electric Co. Team Track Is Completed

The Pacific Electric Co. has completed construction of its new team track at 220th st. and Ferrocarril ave., and it soon will be available for loading and unloading, it was revealed this week.

The track is located on Pacific Electric property 10 acres in area, just south of 220th st., reported to be available for lease or purchase for manufacturing purposes.

Sears, Rippey And Plomert Chosen As Directors Of Local Chamber

Dean Sears, manager of the Torrance branch of the Bank of America, has been elected a director of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and reelected are C. T. Rippey, attorney at law, and R. I. Plomert Jr., tax counselor for the General Petroleum Corp.

Results of the recent membership election of the Chamber of Commerce, conducted by mail ballot, were announced at the directors' meeting Tuesday afternoon in the Chamber office, at which time the directors approved the report of the election committee. The committee consisted of Bernard Lee, chairman, R. J. Deininger, Dean Sears, Grette Wood and Don Carper.

Plomert has served on the directorate since its reorganization almost two years ago, and Rippey was named a director a few months ago on the resignation of C. T. Mitchell.

Sears has been an active Chamber committee worker since coming to Torrance. Election of officers was delayed until a later date, according to announcement of the directors.

Present officers and directors are Reed H. Farlin, president; Charles V. Jones, vice president; Elaine Walker, executive director; I. Washer, Grover C. Whyte, C. B. Bagnall, the Rev. Paul M. Wheeler, Charles Gotta, Rippey and Plomert, directors.

4. Garbage collection. For reasons unknown, North Torrance never has been included in the garbage collection contract, and city trucks have been required to pick up kitchen waste, a job for which the city trucks have not been equipped. North Torrance residents declare they want the same service as the rest of the city is getting.

5. Police protection. More frequent patrol by prowling cars is desired by the residents in view of the several rape cases in recent weeks in North Torrance. While residents realize that the cases have originated outside of Torrance, they say that constant patrol there would make such offenses in cars unlikely.

6. Fire protection. All that protects North Torrance residence and business property is a 40-gallon chemical trailer hauled by volunteers, and what service that comes from the central station which has to be reached by the delayed use of the Redondo Beach and Menlo telephone exchanges. They want a station such as Walteria has.

While members of the committee feel that these improvements are essential to growth, they also stated that growth depends upon the improved services noted above.

A half dozen subdivisions have been announced for North Torrance involving more than 500 new homes.

Thanksgiving Church Rites Are Scheduled

The Union Thanksgiving service, sponsored by Torrance churches of the Ministerial Association, will be held on Thursday morning at 9 o'clock in the First Christian church, Engracia avenue at Arlington. "We Glorify God" is to be the Thanksgiving theme of the Rev. H. Wesley Roloff, minister of the Central Evangelical United Brethren church, who has been selected to bring the message.

Special music is to be provided by the First Christian church. The Rev. Clyde Ruckman, pastor of the First Methodist church and president of the Ministerial group, is to preside.

First Lutheran church will hold Thanksgiving services at 9 a. m., the Rev. Frank D. Meehling, pastor, announced. His Sunday topic will be "Rejoice in Hope" at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, will have as its text "Thanksgiving" at services at 10 a. m. Thanksgiving day.

Only One Bid Received For City Property

Torrance City Council Tuesday night received only one bid for the three center lots at El Prado and Cravens ave. offered for sale recently for a minimum of \$18,000. Sam Levy offered \$12,000 for the lots, and the bid was ordered "filed" on motion of Councilman G. V. Powell.

Torrance Lions club presented a protest against the sale at any price, and the letter from the club likewise was filed. The Council agreed to give the Veterans of Foreign Wars a chance to continue their Friday night dances with the aid of 26 members who would be sworn in as officers to enforce the law.

Also endorsed was a request of Gil Derouin that Torrance Y.M.C.A. be given full branch status instead of being a part of the San Pedro "Y."

North Torrance water returns were canvassed and it was found that 113 voted in favor of formation of Municipal Water District No. 2. There were only 21 against. Plans and specifications for the development of the new water system were ordered.

DRUNK DRIVERS

Harry L. Bassett, Hermosa Beach, last week was fined \$125 in Torrance City Court upon his plea of guilty to drunk driving. James F. Miller, 29, 1622 W. 216th st., received a \$150 fine with \$100 suspended following his plea of guilty to driving while drunk. City Judge John Shidler revoked the drivers' license of both men for the ensuing 30 days.

ROSS IN HOSPITAL

Oscar H. Ross, manager of the Torrance Safeway store, entered Torrance Memorial hospital yesterday for an emergency appendicitis operation, having been stricken while on duty at the store.

Minks From Torrance Fur Farms Win Grand Championships At Exposition

Winners in a recent million-dollar California Fur Breeders association public exhibit at the state exposition building in Exposition park, two tiny minks of Torrance Fur Farms Inc., walked off with grand champion prizes.

The farms, operated in partnership by A. P. Croft and Lloyd Prestwiel, and located at 2227 W. 182nd st., have nearly 1,000 of the little fur bearers.

In the mutations class the local breeders won the top trophy with a rare blue-gray mink. In the standards grand prize award Croft and Prestwiel also grabbed first place honors with a jet-black mink of exceptional beauty.

In addition to these prizes, three runner-up awards were made to mink owned by these farms.

In winning the challenge trophies, Croft explained that it will be necessary to take next year's exhibit in the mutations in order to hold it. His sprit-little blue-gray animal marks its second year as a champ.

SALES TAX PROTEST FADES AS COUNCILMEN PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR CITY MANAGER

Organized opposition to the levying of a city sales tax was withdrawn by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce following a conference Friday between a six-man committee representing the Chamber membership and three city councilmen.

Following a full discussion of the proposed sales tax and the City Manager plan led by Dean L. Sears, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee, Mayor J. Hugh Shertley Jr. and Councilmen Albert L. Jackson and George V. Powell, comprising the finance committee of the City Council, agreed to:

Tartar-Pilot And Gaucho-Mohican Tilts Wednesday

Torrance high school footballers meet Banning on the Tartar field at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. The new hard-hitting Pilot eleven, who during the past two games have raced to the front by defeating San Pedro and defeating Narbonne, may halt their stride before the Tartar squad. Narbonne Gaucho's will no doubt play a role in the visiting Gardens Mohicans on the same date. The Gauchos, with two defeats and a tie, will be in an all-out effort to regain their earlier promise.

With former Narbonne graduates marking an annual Homecoming Day for the grid meet, Coach Sheldon Loughborough's hard-riding eleven are expected to commit mayhem on their home pampas.

New Assistant Pastor Assumes Church Duties

Father Edward Dougery, recently retired major from the Army after serving 12 years, last week arrived here to serve in the Catholic Church of the Nativity during the vacation of Father Patrick J. McGuinness.

A brother of Ralph and James Dougery, who made gridiron fame at the University of California during the mid-twenties, the Rev. Mr. Dougery was serving in the Panama Canal zone as chaplain when World War II broke. He was with the First Special Service Force and slated for overseas duty until doctors deprived him of what Father Dougery termed "the opportunity."

He was stationed later at United States until his health failed him to leave the service in 1945. Following a short rest and a surgical operation, the Rev. Mr. Dougery attempted to reenter the Army but was rejected, he explained.

Parishioners here all vote their approval of the new and likeable assistant pastor and hope that he may enjoy his stay in Torrance.

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"Vote for submission of an amendment to the City Charter, (as soon as it is legally possible) to the vote of the electorate," said amendment to provide for setting up the office of City Manager and to cloak the City Manager with sufficient authority and safeguards against pressure groups and political influences so that he can do an efficient job;

"Declared that the present sales tax ordinance was enacted for only a one-year period and it was their intention not to renew the sales tax after the first year."

Having received these assurances from a majority of the City Council members, the Chamber committee members agreed to discontinue the circulation of referendum petitions against the sales tax. Councilman William H. Tolson had previously made the same commitments regarding the City Manager and one-year limitation of the sales tax, as the three members present at the conference. Councilman Merton Gilbert informed the Herald yesterday that he also concurred in the commitments of the other four councilmen.

During the discussion between Chamber committee and City Councilmen, it was emphasized that the revenue received from the sales tax be used to pay off the present deficit in the city treasury. Once the deficit was liquidated, it is planned to keep the municipal budget in balance through more efficient management and economies to be instituted by a City Manager.

Under the terms of the sales tax ordinance, retailers will begin making collections of one-half of one percent on sales made beginning Dec. 1, 1946.

The conference between the Chamber committee and members of the Council, financed jointly by the Chamber and the Chamber of Commerce, was held last Thursday.

Jackson said that he had been through the budget thoroughly, and that he had found expenses up from 25 to 30 cent, most of it from the payroll. He defended the salary increases, declaring the city is getting more efficiency out of the dollar spent now than before. However, he pointed out, while expenses have gone up 25 to 30 per cent, income from taxes has gone up only five per cent.

"The two just don't add up," Jackson declared. "If our city is going to operate on a comparable basis to last year, more money is going to be needed or we go into the hole more. We

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City Sales Tax Forms Ready

With City Sales tax going into effect on Monday, Dec. 2, local merchants should receive forms in time to begin computation of taxes, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Those interested persons who may have been overlooked in the mailing of forms are asked to contact the City Clerk's office and their needs will be supplied.



GRAND PRIZE WINNERS . . . A. P. Croft, co-partner in the North Torrance Fur Farms, Inc., 2227 W. 182nd st., proudly presents the firm's grand champion minks with their challenge trophies. The awards were made at the recent California Fur Breeders Association display in Exposition Building, Los Angeles. The pert little mink on the left is a rare blue-gray and took top honors in the mutations class for the second consecutive year. His cage-neighbor, with a jet-black coat of fur, won first prize in the standards. The farms, owned jointly by Croft and Lloyd Prestwiel, have nearly 1,000 mink on the premises. (Torrance Herald photo.)